

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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E.O.11652:N/A
TAGS:AORG, WMO, TGEN, EG
SUBJ: POTENTIAL US CANDIDATE FOR WMO SEC.GEN: DR. ROBERT M.WHITE/WMO
ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT

REF: A)STATE A-4947(12/13/77); B) STATE 2602

1. SCIATT DISCUSSED WITH DR. WHITE POTENTIAL CANDIDACY FOR WMO SEC GEN ON JAN 12; DR. WHITE HAVING PREVIOUSLY TALKED WITH EGYPTIAN WMO PRES. TAHA. ACCORDING TO DR. WHITE, TAHA STILL FEEL WHITE CANDIDACY, IN EVENT INCUMBENT DR. DAVIES STEPS DOWN, WOULD BE DIVISIVE. TAHA APPARENTLY FEELS WHITE COULD NOT WIN, BUT WOULD GET ENOUGH VOTES TO DEADLOCK, RESULTING IN ELECTION OF COMPROMISE CANDIDATE PERHAPS DETRIMENTAL TO WMO AS WHOLE. WHITE DID NOT DETECT ANY RESERVATIONS PER SE TO HIS PRIOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO WMO QUALIFICATIONS, OR ABILITY TO SERVE AS EFFECTIVE SEC GEN IF ELECTED.

2. DR. WHITE SAID THAT WHEN ASKED ABOUT HIS VIEWS, TAHA SAID HE HAD PERSONAL INFORMATION THAT SEVERAL MEMBERS OF EXEC. COMMITTEE E.G. FRANCE PREFERRED OTHERS. FYI:DR. WHITE SAYS FRENCH HAVE ASSURED HIM OF THEIR SUPPORT FOR HIS CANDIDACTAND WOULD BE INFORMING TAHA.

,
HE FEELS TAHA'S VIEWS MAY BE BASED ON SIMILAR OUT OF DATE OR
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MISINFORMATION. END FYI. WHITE ASSURED TAHA THAT US WOULD SUPPORT
"
DR. DAVIES IF HE SEEKS RE ELECTION.

3. AFTER CONVERSATION, WHITE'S FEELING IS THAT DR. TAHA MIGHT BE PREPARED TO, AT LEAST, NOT EXERT ANY INFLUENCE AGAINST HIS CANDIDACY IF DAVIES RETIRES. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT TAHA REMAIN

NEUTRAL ON CANDIDACY IN THE UPCOMING FEB. REGIONAL WMO MTG. OF
AFRICAN MEMBERS. IT WOULD OF COURSE BE BETTER IF TAHA WOULD INFORMALLY

INDICATE SUPPORT FOR WHITE, WITH AFRICAN AND ARAB STATES, SINCE
TOGETHER THESE HAVE A BLOCKING 1/3 OF VOTES. TO THIS END, DR. WHITE
HAS REQUESTED EMB TO EXPRESS OUR INTEREST IN HIS CANDIDACY FORMALLY

"

TO GOE. HE TOLD TAHA HE WAS TAKING THIS STEP. WE WILL, IF DEPT. HAS
NO OBJECTION, DELIVER NOTE ALONG LINES OF ENCLOSURE 2 REF A, AND
ORALLY PRESENT OUR VIEW TO MFA AND INTERESTED GOE AGENCIES DURING
WK OF JAN. 16. FYI ONE PROBLEM IS THAT MOST OF MFA SENIOR STAFF IS
ALMOST TOTALLY OCCUPIED WITH PEACE TALKS. BOTH FOR MIN. KAMAL AND
MIN. STATE BOUTROS GHALI ARE IN JERUSALEM. LOWER LEVEL REPRESENTATIONS
MAY NOT PRODUCE NEEDED TIMELY ACTION. WHITE WAS ADVISED
TO GHALI AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY.

4. DR. WHITE ALSO HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH EGYPTIAN METEOROLOGICAL
OFFICIALS ABOUT UPGRADING WORLD WEATHER WATCH LINKS: THESE WOULD
INCLUDE UPGRADING EXISTING COMPUTER, AND SUPPORT CAPABILITIES
AND IMPROVING DATA LINKS, EST DEDICATED CHANNEL TO ALGERIA, WITH
POSSIBLE, AS THINGS NOW STAND TO UPGRADE INTERNAL LINK FROM
CAIRO AIRPORT TO DOWNTOWN CENTER. HOWEVER, WHITE WILL EXPLORE
POSSIBILITY OF PL-480 CONTRIBUTION WITH NOAA LATER. EILTS

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